

**SB 222 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Energy and Environment**

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**Prepared By:** Beth Reiley, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 2/19

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires State Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to establish a program to manage population levels of species that prey on salmon (Program). Requires ODFW to operate the Program in areas near waterways in southwest Oregon that: (a) contain locations used for the release of hatchery-raised members of the family Salmonidae, other than trout; or (b) are used for a salmon enhancement project under conducted by ODFW. Prohibits ODFW Commission from: restricting the operation of Program, altering salmon release sites, or altering the operation of salmon enhancement projects to protect predator species because if the Commission determines predator species are endangered or threatened species under Oregon's threatened or endangered wildlife species statute (ORS 496.171 to 496.182). Required Commission to apply to federal agencies for waivers or permits necessary to allow ODFW to carry out Program if predator is listed as threatened or endangered under federal laws.

**REVENUE:** May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

**FISCAL:** May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-1 Replaces measure. Requires Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to: establish a program to monitor the introduction and support programs to eradicate smallmouth bass within rivers other than the Columbia River that drain into the Pacific Ocean. Appropriates \$1 million to ODFW, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, out of the General Fund to carry out provision of Act. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**BACKGROUND:**

Members of the family Salmonidae in the Pacific Northwest (PNW) include chinook salmon, chum salmon, coho salmon, pink salmon, and sockeye salmon, but also steelhead and sea-run cutthroat trout. The life-cycle of most Salmonidae species includes a migration from freshwater to salt water where they mature before returning to freshwater spawning grounds. Due to their migratory patterns, their most common predators in the PNW include orcas, sea lions, hawks, and eagles, but also bears, racoons, otters, herons, and others. Certain evolutionarily significant units, i.e. distinct populations considered important for conservation, of Chinook Salmon, Chum Salmon, Coho Salmon, Sockeye Salmon, and Steelhead are currently protected under the Endangered Species Act. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is statutorily required to protect, preserve, propagate, cultivate, develop, and promote fish in Oregon (ORS 506.036).